

Claims 29-32 and 36

Claims 29 and 32 are canceled, and therefore their rejections are now moot.

Claims 30-31 and 36 depend from Claim 33, which as discussed above is now in condition for allowance, and therefore Claims 30-31 and 36 distinguish over the cited references for the same reasons as Claim 33.

Claims 73-74

Claims 73-74 are canceled, and therefore their rejections are now moot.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

Claims 17-22, 59-62, 64-66, 69-70, 75-79, 89-93, and 99-100 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Feldmeier '886 or Ross in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,289,414 to Feldmeier (hereinafter referred to as Feldmeier '414).

Claims 17-22

Claims 17-20 depend from Claim 16, which as discussed above is patentable, and therefore Claims 17-20 distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 16.

Claims 21 and 22 are canceled, and thus their rejections are now moot.

Claim 59

Claim 59 depends from Claim 33, which as discussed above is in condition for allowance, and therefore Claim 59 distinguishes over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 33.

Claims 60-62, 64-66, and 69-70

Claims 60-62, 64-66, and 69-70 are canceled, and thus their rejections are now moot.

The cancellation of Claims 60-62 and 64-72 is made solely for the purpose of placing this application in condition for allowance, and therefore is not to be construed as an acquiescence of the Examiner's rejection of such claims.

Claims 75-79

Claims 75-78 depend from Claim 80, which as discussed above is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Claims 75-78 distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 80.

Claim 79 is canceled, and thus its rejection is now moot.

Claims 89-93

Claims 89, 91, and 93 are canceled, and thus their rejections are now moot.

Claims 90 and 92 depend from Claim 94, which as discussed above is now in condition for allowance, and therefore Claims 90 and 92 distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 94.

Claims 99-100

Claims 99-100 are canceled, and thus their rejections are now moot.

NON-NARROWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 46-47 and 59-60 are amended to correct clerical errors. These amendments are not narrowing and are not made for the purpose of patentability or avoiding the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments, it is believed that Claims 1-20, 23-28, 30-31, 33-40, 42-59, 75-78, 80-84, 90, 92, and 94-98 are in condition for allowance and, therefore, a Notice of Allowance of Claims 1-20, 23-28, 30-31, 33-40, 42-59, 75-78, 80-84, 90, 92, and 94-98 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next action is other than allowance as requested, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (415) 379-6143.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: January 18, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 18, 2005.



By:

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